(a) whether all the Blood Banks had been directed to procure blood only after establishing it as free from AIDS virus in the light of fast spreading of AIDS in the country;

(b) if so, whether every Blood Bank is fully equipped to test AIDS virus in the blood procured; and

(c) if not, the steps Government would propose to take to see that a large number of patients are saved from AIDS, affected through HIV positive blood transfusion through blood procured from Blood Banks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules clearly direct that every unit of blood in a blood bank is tested for HIV infection and only HIV sero-negative blood is issued for purposes of blood transfusion and/or for any other uses. To ensure this, every blood bank is equipped with HIV test kits or then is further linked to a larger blood bank, where these facilities are available.

Funds under RCHP for Himachal Pradesh

2529. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Himachal Pradesh under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme for the last three years, year-wise and district-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the funds allocated for the purpose are being diverted for other purposes; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to check such diversion and misuse of funds?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Allocation of funds under Reproductive and Child Health Programme is made State-wise

and not district-wise. The details of allocations made during last 3 years are given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Funds allocated
2000-01	427.02
2001-02	276.80
2002-03	335.41

(b) No diversion of funds under the programme has come to our notice from the audit of the programme or otherwise.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Anthrax in the country

2530. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the out-break of anthrax was found in the country in 1990;

(b) if so, the number of persons affected in the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to control the same, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Cases of human anthrax was reported from Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh in November-December, 1989.

(b) Natural Anthrax is endemic in some parts of the country. The data available with National Institute of Communication Diseases (NICD) is given below:

	1999		2000		2001	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Karnataka	8	5	-	0	4	2
West Bengal	-	-	43	3	-	-